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the Black Hawk war of 1832 Fort Winnebago was a useful outpost, and served as a check upon the hostile tribesmen, who in 1840 were rounded up at Fort Winnebago to be transported from Wisconsin.

November, 1849, the town of Fort Winnebago was platted, and in 1851 became the county seat. In 1854 the village was incorporated as the city of Portage. A canal connecting the two rivers was begun in 1838 but not completed until 1876. The first railroad entered Portage in 1857.

### SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

*An English Settler in Pioneer Wisconsin—The Letters of Edwin Bottomley, 1842-1850.* Quaife, Milo M. (editor). Publications of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, *Collections*, Vol. XXV. Published by the Society, Madison, 1918. 250 pp.

Edwin Bottomley, son of an English mill-manager and himself a pattern-maker, emigrated in 1842 with wife and five children to Racine County, Wisconsin. Here he settled on a tract of land, made a home for himself and his family, and took a worthy part in the humble affairs of a frontier community. The letters published in this volume were written to the father, Captain Thomas Bottomley, and cover the period from the beginning of the voyage in May, 1842, to the fall of 1850 when typhoid fever brought the son's career to a close.

The motive of Bottomley in undertaking life in the new country was to acquire a home for old age and, especially, to make provision for his children. It is significant of the outlook of ordinary folk in the England of that time that a man like Bottomley, who had fairly good employment and a comfortable situation, should have felt impelled to leave friends and relatives and face the privation of an unaccustomed life far away, in order to provide for the future. The letters reveal that he was never sorry for his choice, even though there were in the new situation many trials and disappointments. He always felt that his loved ones were secure at least of enough to eat, and he writes commiseratingly concerning those who in the Old World at times during the forties suffered from famine.

The new life in Wisconsin, rough and strange as it was in many respects, laid soon its spell upon the Englishman. In this country, "we have no Police men nor Poor Law commissioners nor are we troubled much with tax gatherers. \* \* \* our officers such as magistrates, Balif, &c are all working men and stand on equal ground with ourself." (p. 57) He appreciated also that there seemed to be "a general disposition manifested by the Americans to go hand in hand with foreigners and allow them to join in the

govern[ment] of town and state." (p.194) The most considerable activity of Bottomley in community affairs was the part which he took in the building of a church which was largely financed by funds furnished through his influence from the old neighborhood in England. Aspirations for more land also helped to tie him to the new environment, and he went heavily in debt for 340 acres additional to his first holding.

As a farmer, however, it is difficult to see that Bottomley was much of a success. Though considerable portions of his ground were free from timber, he nevertheless broke it out but slowly and never got into cultivation more than about twenty-five acres. From the first he had to employ a hired man for helping to farm little patches which would have been regarded by an American pioneer as hardly furnishing employment to one able-bodied man. He had practically no comprehension of the improvements in agricultural machinery and in agricultural practice which were being agitated widely. His livestock, his will reveals, was inferior. In fact, his farming operations were of the amateurish sort that one could expect from an English factory operative.

There are, however, some interesting data concerning agriculture in the letters. In his first "Account of Expenditure," the fare from New York to Milwaukee is put down at \$120, the price of his eighty acres of land at \$100. His stove cost him \$29.20, and a cow and calf \$15. A barrel of the best flour cost, in 1843, \$3.50, good beef was three cents per pound and pork from two to six. We have here frontier prices uninfluenced yet by the rise due to California gold. It was in part because of these low prices that Bottomley had to have frequently considerable financial help from the sturdy old father in England and at his death left his estate so involved as to necessitate recourse to the same source. Again we see the difference between this English settler and the ordinary American; few of the latter, we dare say, had relatives on whom they could draw for substantial sums.

The main value of the book lies, as the editor has indicated in his interesting introduction, in the fact that Bottomley represented in his experiences the typical English immigrant to this country, and that these experiences are put before us in gripping form. The spelling and punctuation of the letters are such as the average eighth-grade child of today would be reprimanded for using; but there is literary charm in the ease and clarity of expression, the power of vivid description (as, for example, the account of a fire on the frontier, p. 35) and the artless setting forth of the commonplace affairs of everyday life. The reader, indeed, seems to be a member of the family. So realistic is the portrayal of the scenes, so engrossing the

interest of the book, that one comes with a sense of shock to the end as the lively narrative is brought to a close by the death of the narrator.

There can be no question from the reviewer's point of view that this volume occupies a somewhat unique place in the literature of frontier history and that its publication is well worth while. The editing is particularly commendable because of the omission of the obtrusive footnotes which not unusually are indulged in in such work, and for giving us the letters as they are, simple and sincere.

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One of the outstanding facts which chiefly differentiates the modern library from its forbear of a generation or more ago consists in the careful classifying and card cataloguing of its contents with a view to rendering them easily accessible to patrons of the library. The newspaper collection of the Wisconsin Historical Library takes prominent rank among the similar collections of the country. In order that its contents might be instantly available to students the Society in 1898 issued an *Annotated Catalogue of Newspaper Files* in the Library. This first work was a pathbreaker in the field of American bibliography. Since its publication, however, a number of institutions have followed the example thus set by the Wisconsin Historical Society, and several notable newspaper catalogues or checklists are now in print. By 1911, the growth of this Society's newspaper collection seemed to render advisable the publication of a second *Annotated Catalogue*, a volume, this time, of almost 600 pages. Unique in certain respects, this catalogue still remains one of the two or three most important publications of its kind in existence. To bring forward to the present time the catalogue of our newspaper collection the Society has now issued a *Supplementary Catalogue of Newspaper Files*, listing the papers acquired from 1911 to the close of the year 1917. Although unannotated, a book of 89 pages is required merely to list the acquisitions of these years. As the title indicates, the new work is designed to be used in conjunction with the catalogue of 1911, the two taken together showing the entire contents of the Newspaper Division of the Library down to the first of January, 1918. To convey a definite idea of the size of a newspaper collection is extremely difficult, since there is no generally accepted unit of measurement. Perhaps the simplest way of approximating the matter is to say that the Wisconsin collection numbers upwards of 26,000 bound volumes. If our newspapers were bound as are those of a sister historical library, the number of separate volumes would easily exceed 100,000.

The compilation of a *History of Wisconsin Methodism*, the first official work of the kind ever written, was voted at the recent Wisconsin Conference. Reverend George W. White, of Beloit, assisted by an advisory committee, was commissioned to the task. Reverend White has written a history of his local church and also one of the Byron Camp Meeting. The latter, which was read at Conference, received such favorable comment that a history of the larger field was suggested with the same author as the historian. The book is to appear in 1920.

In the September 7 issue of the *Plymouth Reporter* H. C. Badc, veteran fireman, tells the story of the Fire Company of that town in commemoration of its organization, fifty years ago.

"Token Creek Village" is the title of an article by M. P. Wheeler, an early settler, in the *Madison Democrat* for September 15. The writer supposes the name of the village to have originated from the finding of an Indian totem and that this incident with the name transformed to the word "token," is commemorated in the name given to the village and the creek.

"Parental Stories of Pioneer Times," the first series of Lieutenant B. J. Cigrand's contributions to the *Port Washington Star*, closed, August 24, with its one hundred nineteenth chapter. The same paper is now publishing a new series by the same writer, entitled, "Living Former Ozaukeeans."

A reprint of "The Discovery of Wisconsin," a chapter from Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites' *Stories of the Badger State*, appeared in the *Darlington Democrat* for August 1 and 8.

"Recollections of the Indian Days" which appear in serial form in the *Baraboo Republic* for July 11 are interesting reminiscences of M. H. Mould put into print at the request of the Sauk County Historical Society.

"A Late Chapter About the Lost Dauphin and a Bit of Romantic History of the Green Bay Region" is the interesting story that O. D. Brandenburg brought back from a visit to the Menominee squaw reared by the widow of Eleazer Williams, the "lost dauphin." The article, which appears in the *Madison Democrat* of August 4, refutes any relationship between Williams and Louis XVI.

## SOME WISCONSIN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

The public printer has issued the *Journals* of the special session of the legislature, held from February 19 to March 9, 1918. This session was called by the governor to make appropriations for extraordinary military expenditures, to arrange for the soldiers' vote, and to authorize the executive to appoint some person to fill the remainder of the term of United States Senator Paul O. Husting, deceased. These with a few minor matters constituted the message of the governor to the assembled legislature. The debates on these questions are interesting, and particularly those in the *Appendix* incidental to a loyalty resolution, to which an amendment was passed condemning the conduct of Senator Robert M. La Follette. The full text of the speeches is given.

From the office of the Secretary of State is issued a *Roster of Selective Service* of the Wisconsin Draft Administration. This comprises lists with names and addresses of the local boards, of the district boards, and of the medical and legal advisory boards—all serving without salary at the government's call.

A pamphlet of *Songs* for the Wisconsin Student Army has been issued as the first pamphlet of the Student Army Training Corps. The part that music plays in the morale of the army has been recognized since its enrollment. Every large camp has its music master, and the S. A. T. C. will be true to the traditions of the student armies of the past by giving a rousing welcome to this pamphlet.

The University of Wisconsin has printed as a special bulletin the Commencement address of President Charles R. Van Hise on *The War Problem of the United States*. Since its inception President Van Hise has been in close touch with the federal authorities and his presentation of the demands of the war is both comprehensive and suggestive, and is remarkable for breadth of vision, and for grasp of the possibilities for service.

*Opinions of the Attorney-General of Wisconsin* for the year 1917, when Judge Walter C. Owen occupied that office, makes a substantial volume. Reference to the index reveals that the greater number of opinions were asked for on the following subjects: bridges and highways, education, insurance, military service, mothers' pensions, public health, and registered nurses.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction has issued two bulletins, one a supplementary *Price List* of school textbooks; the other by W. H. Theisen is entitled *Studies in Educational Measure-*

ments, which is a report on the use of some standard tests in Wisconsin schools. Since the personnel departments of the army and of many large commercial houses are applying psychological tests, it is well that those in use in the schools should be carefully standardized.

The Board of Regents of Normal Schools has issued a yearly catalogue of all the seven institutions under its care; several of the schools present individual catalogues, while the School of Physical Education connected with the La Crosse Normal, and the Wisconsin Mining School at Platteville issue illustrated descriptions of their courses that show the latest and most approved methods in these vocational schools.

A number of publications have been sent out by different publicity agencies of the University. Among these are two doctoral dissertations as follows: Bulletin No. 923 in the Economic and Political Science series is a study of *Fair Value—Economic and Legal Principles* by Haskell Bryan Whaling. Although theoretical in treatment, this scientific study will be welcomed by those who desire that these principles should be settled on the basis of justice and human interest.

*Immunity of Private Property from Capture at Sea* by Harold Scott Quigley is a timely discussion of the principles of international law applied to commerce.

In the High School series two pamphlets have been prepared and issued both with a pedagogical intent. They are none the less of much general interest. The first, prepared by F. D. Crawshaw and W. H. Varnum of the University faculty, is entitled *Standards in Manual Arts, Drawing, and Design*. In a substantial pamphlet of sixty-two pages these arts are considered from the æsthetic and industrial point of view, in addition to the purely pedagogical. Suggestions are made for work in all the school grades, the illustrations are numerous, and there is an especially good bibliography of the entire subject. Complementary to this is Bulletin 944 issued by the Extension Division entitled *Manual Arts as Vocations*. It relates especially to the building and metal-working trades, printing, designing, architecture, and landscape gardening.

The second High School bulletin by Professor Barry Cerf is *A Four Years Course in French for High Schools*. Since the great demand for instruction in this language has rendered the supply of

competent teachers too few to meet the demand, this careful discussion of the aims, the means, and the results to be obtained in high school courses is very timely.

The Extension Division also issues in addition to Bulletin 945, which gives general information on *Correspondence Study*, and outlines its plan, scope, method, system, expense, and credit, a serious study by Professor John L. Gillin on *Some Aspects of Feeble-Mindedness in Wisconsin*. Professor Gillin begins by a definition and classification of these defectives into idiots, imbeciles, and morons, and shows the menace of feeble-mindedness to our institutions, which takes on especial significance in war time under the selective draft. There are, he states, about 200,000 such defectives in the nation, some estimates being even higher. Most of these are inherited cases. Wisconsin's share of such unfortunates is almost 10,000. The state has lately made provision for the especial care of the feeble minded in an institution at Union Grove, but this is insufficient for the needs. When the cost is counted in criminality, pauperism, and vice, the need of scientific methods for segregation and sterilization is evident.

The College of Agriculture in the University issues a bulletin describing the *Short Course in Agriculture 1918-19*. This course extends through fifteen weeks beginning the middle of November and ending the middle of March. The purpose of this course is to give practical farmers the benefit of the scientific work continually being carried on in the Experiment Station, and by a brief residence together at the University during the leisure of the winter, to arouse enthusiasm and *esprit du corps* among our farming population.

Several helpful bulletins from the Experiment Station have recently been sent out. One on *The Hemp Industry* in Wisconsin states that ours has the second largest production of any of the states. Practical advice on soil and seeds follows, and the gross returns are shown to be \$75 per acre on the average, with a cost from \$8 to \$11 more than grain crops.

The March Bulletin No. 290 issued by the State Department of Agriculture in coöperation with the Agricultural Experiment Station is a very important tract on *Farm Making in Upper Wisconsin*. This little volume of seventy-one pages is an entire treatise for the prospective settler, telling him just what to expect and what steps to take to secure a farm home. The neighborhood of markets, schools, and agricultural agencies, the amount of land and the timber on it, its adaptation to dairy farming, and the first steps in root and



grain crops are all described with precision and clearness. This bulletin is a decided contrast to the former prospectuses issued to allure intending settlers. It is a scientific consideration of the advantages and disadvantages that will meet the newcomer in a new land.

In the May Bulletin No. 292, Professor H. C. Taylor discusses *Price Fixing and the Cost of Farm Products*. This is a timely discussion of the principles which should govern the delicate and difficult economic business of price fixing, showing the dangers of a bad system. If, however, price fixing can act as a medium for collective bargaining in the sale of farm products and in the purchase of supplies it may steady prices, guide production, and in a measure direct consumption for the greatest good of all.

The *Report* of the directors of the Agricultural Extension service is a treatise on serving Wisconsin farmers in war time, telling of the testing of seed, of soil management, live stock improvement, and a state wide campaign under a staff of fifty-four men for increased food production.

The potato industry is served by a handsome booklet issued by the Wisconsin Potato Growers Association. It states that during last summer approximately 300,000 acres have been planted to potatoes commercially, aside from the indeterminate acreage of war gardens. Last year the crop was 35,000,000 bushels as against 14,000,000 in 1916. The crop varies with weather conditions, and the extent of pests. A show is to be held at the Milwaukee Auditorium the week of November 20 and 24.

The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey in coöperation with the United States Bureau of Soils issues four numbers of its Soil series. The first is *A Reconnaissance Soil Survey of Northeast Wisconsin* comprising the counties of Florence, Forest, Langlade, Oconto, Marinette, and Shawano. The others are surveys of the same kind for Jefferson and Columbia counties, and for the northern part of north central Wisconsin. It is unnecessary to point out the importance of this work to the development and settling of the newer regions of our state.

The Industrial Commission has been prolific in publications in an effort to educate the public to the avoidance of accidents and fires. It has printed a revised edition of *General Orders on Safety Building Constructions*, taking as its standard the requirement of no safeguard which cannot be proved to be practical, which is not based on

actual accident experience, and which the commission cannot direct how to install or erect.

A bulletin by the same commission on *Store Fires* states that in 1916 there were in the state 242 such fires with a loss of nearly \$700,000, which was somewhat increased in 1917. The commission appeals to all merchants to take extra precautions against such fires as a *patriotic duty*. A bulletin on *Lightning Rods* and one addressed to the *Wisconsin Apprentice* urging him to obey the shop safety rules complete the industrial commission's recommendations. A monthly *Safety Review* is likewise published by this agency.

The State Board of Health issues the eighth edition of the *Powers and Duties of Health Boards* giving a full detail of the laws and instructions for the local boards. It also publishes a treatise on *Venereal Diseases, Their Restriction and Prevention*, which provides timely and simple material for sex education.

The twenty-third annual *Report* of the commissioner of banking is a substantial volume of nearly 500 pages. There are in the state 753 state banks, seven mutual savings banks and fifteen trust companies organized under state laws, of which thirty-nine had their inception during the last year. Their united capital is \$25,000,000, an increase of a million and a half over the preceding year. Their resources are \$339,700,000, an increase of forty-one million. The coöperation of the state banks in the Federal Liberty Loans is noted.

### THE WIDER FIELD

HANSEN, MARCUS L. *Old Fort Snelling 1819-1858*. (Iowa City, 1918.)

The subject of this study, put forth by the State Historical Society of Iowa, belongs to the domain of Wisconsin history as much as it does to that of Iowa, and to that of Minnesota in even greater degree. Its publication affords a fresh illustration of the truth long since regarded by scholars as axiomatic that the forces and activities of human life—which constitute the subject matter of history—pay scant regard to artificial boundaries of geography or government. An American commonwealth—least of all one situated in the upper Mississippi Valley—is not a detached atom floating in boundless space; rather are its various component elements bound by innumerable ties to communities and peoples outside its borders, and only by cognizing its relations with the world outside its legal bounds can its history be known at all. It is greatly to the credit of the historical departments of the states of the upper Mississippi valley that they